



# Brownfields Initiatives in Region 7

Office of Outreach and Special Projects (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Currently, there are a number of Regionally funded Brownfields-related activities, such as targeted site assessments in urban areas, financial support of State voluntary cleanup programs, financial support of State regulation development, Inter-governmental Personnel Assignments (IPA) to cities, and outreach activities. Some of these activities are in the form of Regional or National pilots, while others are smaller scale actions such as prospective purchaser agreements. This fact sheet is one in a series of ten which outline Brownfields-related activities occurring in each of the ten Regions.

## OVERVIEW

EPA Region 7 has actively supported the Brownfields Initiative through interaction and cooperation with internal and external parties. The Region has taken opportunities to disseminate the information made available on the Brownfields Initiative since the Brownfields Action Agenda was announced. This outreach has been conducted both internally to all regional programs and externally to States and local governments and in response to the many inquiries. The Region is exploring opportunities, based on this information and lessons learned, to support State voluntary cleanup programs and to work with local governments toward reuse and redevelopment of properties previously underutilized because of real or perceived contamination and liability issues.

## LIABILITY ISSUES

Region 7 has incorporated the basic principles behind the Brownfields Initiative into daily actions within the Region. As necessary, the Agency is offering to clarify its role in relation to properties and their cleanup. It is the Agency's intention, where possible, to involve the States in these processes and to place sites on the list of "No Further Response Actions

Planned" (NFRAP) when appropriate. EPA has encouraged parties to work through the State voluntary cleanup programs where they are available. EPA has been willing to consider the use of prospective purchaser agreements to clarify Federal investments and future liability, and to promote the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields. The Region currently is working on five prospective purchaser agreements. The Region has also distributed and is working from the new guidances on land use and properties containing contaminated aquifers.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Region is exploring ways to expand its existing partnerships with the States to further the efforts related to reuse of brownfields and the development of voluntary cleanup programs. The Region has interacted with some local governments regarding the Brownfields pilot program, the use of State voluntary cleanup programs, and other pertinent guidance relevant to the reuse of brownfields.

Region 7 has entered into a cooperative agreement with the State of Kansas to defer a select number of sites from CERCLA authority. The sites will be addressed under the Kansas State Cooperative

Program. The City of Wichita supports the deferral of sites to help encourage community redevelopment efforts, and has used tax increment funding mechanisms and other incentives to encourage redevelopment.

The Region intends to develop partnerships with its States to enhance their voluntary cleanup programs. It plans to work with local governments to support cleanup and economic redevelopment of brownfields by assigning IPAs to municipalities and initiating discussions with communities to encourage their involvement.

## PILOTS

In July 1995, EPA selected the City of St. Louis for a Brownfields pilot. The City plans to facilitate the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of the Dr. Martin Luther King Business Park. The goal of this project is to develop a solution to reverse the years of disinvestment and under-utilization that currently plague the City.

## CONTACT

Kerry Herndon  
U.S. EPA – Region 7  
(913) 551-7286



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency (5101)  
Washington, DC 20460

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